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SECRET-5a

3 September 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: RECORD

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*File*

SUBJECT: Meeting on Thermoelectric Generators

*T.O. 6.*

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1. A "round table" discussion on thermoelectric power generation was held in [ ] office on 27 August 1957. List of attendees is attached.

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2. The meeting was prompted by information contained in Russian translations [ ] Ordnance Corps, had received. It was felt that the report contained information that might result in a breakthrough in the field.

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3. [ ] received this information from a representative of [ ] was proposing research on thermoelectric materials based on the data presented by [ ] in the Russian report.

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4. Discussions at the meeting revealed:

a. [ ] learned of the Russian translation from the USASL. The Laboratories had informed [ ] that Infosearch, 16 Ladbroke Gardens, London W 11, had these translations for sale.

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b. Because of the complication of government procurement, [ ] was able to acquire copies before USASL received theirs.

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c. After receipt, [ ] made copies available to various government agencies along with proposal for work in this field.

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d. The Russian translation alleged efficiencies of approximately 20-30% from semi-conductor materials. However, the details are vague and some question was raised by the USASL and ONR representatives as to the validity of the data.

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5. [ ] called the meeting to determine what was the state of affairs and what should be done to further work along these lines. 25X1

6. [ ] indicated that the Ordnance Office for Research would coordinate with Office of Naval Research, basic research in this field. 25X1

7. The USASL have had R&D projects for development of thermoelectric generators. After World War II, USASL had a research contract with Franklin Institute. This has been since terminated and current work is being conducted internally on about one-half man-year basis.

### 8. Conclusions:

a. [ ] due to insufficient information and background, were probably reading too much into the Russian translation. 25X1

b. The Navy contract [ ] may ultimately provide valuable information and should be followed closely. 25X1

c. Further basic research on thermoelectric materials is in order. Availability of funds is another problem.

1 Incl  
List of Attendees

[ ]  
Chief, Components Section  
Physical Sciences Branch 25X1

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